

Yale Affiliates Animal Rights Network

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Testimony in Support of HB(6565), An Act Concerning Humane Education, for the Education Committee

March 9, 2009

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann and Members of the Education Committee:

Yale Affiliates Animal Rights Network (YAARN), urges you to support HB 6565, An Act Concerning Humane Education. YAARN is a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members at Yale University who are committed to the advancement of animal rights and the abolition of animal exploitation through public education/outreach and active campaigning. We support HB 6565 because we believe that humane education should be an essential part of a student's education as it reduces violence and builds moral character by empowering students to take responsibility for their actions, and helping students apply the concepts of respect toward animals in their own lives. Teaching the ability to empathize with other beings is essential to raising kind, compassionate citizens.

HB6565 would ensure that, like in 15 other states, students who have genuine ethical or religious objections to harming animals would not be required to participate in dissection or classroom experiments. Research shows that many students are uncomfortable with dissection and that it can teach students to disregard the sanctity of life by reducing animals to mere "specimens" and "tools" to be disposed of. Studies have also shown that there is a link between how students treat animals and how they treat one another.

We respectfully encourage the Committee Members to support HB6565 and the promotion of respect for students and animals through humane education.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Rhodes
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